City of Wichita Substantial Amendment to the 2008-2009 One Year Action Plan

Community Development Block Grant-R Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

<u>Program Summary A</u>: CDBG-R funds will be used to perform comprehensive sidewalk repairs in CDBG-eligible areas. Repairs will be made in areas which are identified by the Public Works Department as having a high number of complaints and poor sidewalk conditions. The objective will be to create a visible impact in the entire area.

<u>Background</u>: Many of the city's low income neighborhoods have deteriorating infrastructure. This deterioration has a negative impact on the ability to revitalize the areas and encourage economic development investments. Most of the residents in these areas, do not have sufficient financial resources to pay for the cost of improving the sidewalks. Continued deterioration is the result and the areas continue to be depressed. Additionally, sidewalks in disrepair create safety hazards for pedestrians. The City of Wichita has invested CDBG funds in the past, in similar areas, with very positive results. The community has experienced the "broken window" theory in reverse – as the infrastructure improved other visible improvements began to emerge.

<u>Funding</u>: The City proposes to invest \$487,713 in sidewalk improvements to meet this need.



<u>Program Summary B</u>: CDBG-R funds will provide a façade improvement program for businesses located in the local investment areas.

<u>Background</u>: The City's revitalization strategies for many of its low income neighborhoods, include development and retention of neighborhood businesses. The goal of the strategy is to stabilize the neighborhood and provide a source of resources for residents to access goods and services — and provide a source of employment for area residents. Just as the City's experience in investing in sidewalk improvements has served as an encouragement to residents to maintain and upgrade their properties, it is anticipated that the façade improvement program will have a positive impact on neighborhood businesses' decision to stay or locate in the area.

Funding: The City proposes to invest \$200,000 in the façade improvement program for businesses located in the local investment areas.



<u>Administration</u>: the City of Wichita will retain the maximum amount available, \$76,713 for program administration.